

<p align="center">DRAFT RSET WHITE PAPER #11 - Evaluate Ecology's Guideline Development / Reliability</p>
<p>SEDIMENT QUALITY GUIDELINES SUBCOMMITTEE, B.Betts , Chair (bbet461@ecy.wa.gov); August 2, 2004</p>
<p>QUESTION/ISSUE: What methods were used by Washington's Dept. of Ecology to evaluate alternative marine and freshwater sediment quality guidelines and their respective reliability?</p>
<p>DISCUSSION: Ecology adopted marine sediment quality standards in April 1991. Development of marine sediment quality criteria dated back to Puget Sound investigations in 1986. Ecology's evaluation and selection of marine sediment quality criteria are based on several reports available to the public. Significant reports include the 1990 Environmental Impact and Economic Impact Statements, and 1988 and 1994 criteria technical development documents. Reliability analyses are included in the technical reports.</p> <p>Ecology conducted two significant rounds of freshwater sediment guideline technical development in 1997 and again in 2003. Technical reports for both efforts are available from Ecology's website. The 2003 Phase II technical effort re-developed apparent effects threshold (AET) values from 1997, but also developed guidelines using the floating percentile method. Ecology does not recommend one set of guidelines in the 2003 report, but instead provides reliability results for a number of AET and floating percentile guidelines. Ecology plans to issue separate public guidance recommending a preferred set of freshwater sediment guidelines and sediment evaluation methods in the near future.</p> <p>Currently, no other West Coast state has issued final reports on development of marine or freshwater sediment guidelines. The state of Oregon has enough synoptic, chemical and biological data to separately evaluate one or more of Washington's freshwater guidelines using methods from the Phase II report.</p>
<p>REFERENCES: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/smu/sed_pubs.htm, Phase II Report: Development and Recommendation of SQVs for Freshwater Sediments in Washington State, September 2003, Publication No. 03-09-088.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION: Complete Oregon freshwater reliability analyses using methods and guidelines from the Phase II Ecology report. Evaluate sediment quality data availability from the state of Idaho for potential reliability analyses. Post Oregon reliability analyses, re-visit development of consensus agreement on SQG guidelines.</p>
<p>PROPOSED LANGUAGE CHANGES: None yet available.</p>
<p>LIST OF PREPARERS: Brett Betts, Washington Department of Ecology</p>